



Photo: Griffon Vulture, by R. Pop

10 Days Birdwatching Program in Northern Portugal and Spain

Lisbon Estuaries, International Douro Nature Park, Lagunas de
Villafáfila Nature Park, Monfrague National Park

May 2019

Birds & Nature Tours Portugal

Itinerary

Day 1 (2nd May 2019) – Transfer from Lisbon Airport (or from the Lisbon hotel). Travel to the Hotel Quinta da Praia das Fontes (Alcochete). Visit several areas and a variety of habitats within the Tagus Estuary Nature Reserve, including the inter-tidal mudflats and salt marshes of Hortas, the salt pans of Atalaya, Ribeira das Enguias and Samouco and the Barroca d’Alva rice fields and pastures. Target species: Greater Flamingo, White Stork, Squacco Heron, Purple Heron, Little Bittern, Black-winged Kite, Collared Pratincole, Pallid Swift, Eurasian Hoopoe, Iberian Chiffchaff, Iberian Grey Shrike, Woodchat Shrike, Spotless Starling, Iberian Magpie, Rock Sparrow, European Serin and an excellent selection of ducks, waders, gulls and terns. Overnight stay at the Hotel Quinta da Praia das Fontes (or similar).

Day 2 (3rd May 2019) – Visit other interesting sites of the Tagus Estuary Nature Reserve, including the open fields, rice fields, inter-tidal mudflats and salt marshes of the Ponta da Erva area. Overnight stay at the Hotel Quinta da Praia das Fontes (or similar).

Day 3 (4th May 2019) – Visit other interesting spots of the Tagus Estuary Nature Reserve, namely the cork oak woodlands of Pancas. Travel to the Hotel Quinta do Salgueiro (Freixo-de-Espada-à-Cinta). Overnight stay at the Hotel Quinta do Salgueiro (or similar).

Day 4 (5th May 2019) – Visit the bluffs and hills of the International Douro Nature Park (south), including Barca d’Alva, Mosteiros, Penedo Durão and Lagoaça. Night visit to the Foz Côa petroglyphs. Target species: Griffon Vulture, Egyptian Vulture, Golden Eagle, Bonelli’s Eagle, European Turtle Dove, Common Cuckoo, Eurasian Scops Owl, Alpine Swift, Common Nightingale, Black Wheatear, Mistle Thrush, Blue Rock Thrush, Western Orphean Warbler, Spectacled Warbler, Western Subalpine Warbler, Dartford Warbler, Melodious Warbler, Western Bonelli’s Warbler, Red-billed Chough, Golden Oriole, Hawfinch and Rock Bunting. Overnight stay at the Hotel Quinta do Salgueiro (or similar).

Day 5 (6th May 2019) – Travel to the Hotel Parador Santa Catarina (Miranda do Douro). Visit other interesting areas of the International Douro Nature Park, including Bruçó, Picote and Sendim. Overnight stay at the Hotel Parador Santa Catarina (or similar).

Day 6 (7th May 2019) – Visit other interesting spots of the International Douro Nature Park, including São João das Arribas and Miranda. Boat trip in the river Douro. Overnight stay at the Hotel Parador Santa Catarina (or similar).

Day 7 (8th May 2019) – Travel to the Hotel Rural Viña las Torres (Trujillo, in Spain), visiting on the way Salamanca and the Lagunas de Villafáfila Nature Park (steppe with lagoons). Target species: Short-toed Eagle, Red Kite, Montagu’s Harrier, Lesser Kestrel, Great Bustard, Little Bustard, European

Bee-eater, 6 species of larks, Twany Pipit, Black-eared Wheatear and a great selection of waders on migration. Overnight stay at the Hotel Casa Rural Viña las Torres (or similar).

Day 8 (9th May 2019) – Visit the Monfrague National Park (river escarpments). Target species: Eurasian Black Vulture, Spanish Imperial Eagle, Eurasian Hobby, Black Stork, Eagle Owl, Red-necked Nightjar, Common Kingfisher, White-rumped Swift, Eurasian Crag Martin, Red-rumped Swallow, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, Long-tailed Tit, Crested Tit and Cirl Bunting. Overnight stay at the Hotel Casa Rural Viña las Torres (or similar).

Day 9 (10th May 2019) – Visit the Llanos de Cáceres and Trujillo (steppe). Target species: Black Kite, Pin-tailed Sandgrouse, Black-bellied Sandgrouse, Stone Curlew, Great Spotted Cuckoo, European Roller, Iberian Green Woodpecker, Spanish Sparrow and Corn Bunting. Overnight stay at the Hotel Casa Rural Viña las Torres (or similar).

Day 10 (11th May 2019) – Morning visit to the Monfrague National Park. Return to Lisbon, visiting on the way the inter-tidal mudflats, salt marshes and rice fields of Comporta and Carrasqueira (Sado Estuary Nature Reserve). Sea watch at Comporta. Target species: Cory's Shearwater, Balearic Shearwater, Northern Gannet, Great Skua, Arctic Skua and a great selection of waders, gulls and terns. Overnight stay at the Hotel Zenit, in Lisbon (or similar).

Day 11 – Departure to the US (or visit Lisbon).

Prices

2.780 € per person (8 – 9 participants); 2.640 € per person (10 – 11 participants); 2.460 € per person (12 – 14 participants). Price include guide fees, transfer from the airport/hotel in Lisbon, ground transport (in a bus with driver), boat trip in the river Douro, night visit to the Foz Côa petroglyphs, accommodation (including breakfast), meals (lunches in local cafes and dinners in local restaurants – including wine), free use of optical equipment (quality binoculars and telescopes) and field guides, entrance fees to private or protected areas, participant's accident insurance and VAT. Single supplement: 400 €. Not included are flights and items of a personal nature.

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